ABSTRACT

A key distribution system distributes key data for using content to a second encryption device that has been legitimately outsourced processing by a first encryption device. The first encryption device acquires permission information indicating that the first encryption device has permission to use the content, generates certification information by making an irreversible alteration the to permission information, and transmits the permission information and the certification information to the second encryption device. The second encryption device receives the permission information and the certification information, sends them to a key distribution device, and acquires the key data from the key distribution device. The key distribution device receives the permission information and the certification information, judges whether or not the certification information was generated by the by the first encryption device, and if judging in the affirmative, transmits the key data to the second encryption device.